



**Draft Minutes of the  
Miracle Mile Water Quality Assurance Revolving Fund (WQARF) Site  
Community Advisory Board (CAB) Meeting – 28th meeting**

November 17, 2005, 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.  
Flowing Wells Irrigation District  
3901 N. Fairview  
Tucson, Arizona 85705

E-II-5240.18.6.1.2

CAB Members Present: Gary Abrams, David Crockett, Jan Randolph

CAB Members Absent: Netty Buras, George Hembree, Pauline Massie, Manuel Ramirez

ADEQ Staff Present: Matt Doolen, Project Manager; SRO; Eileen Palese, Community Involvement Coordinator, SRO

Members of the Public Present: Robert Brobeck, Ralph Darling, Matt Elsner

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The meeting began at 6:40 p.m.

**1. Call to Order/Introductions**

Co-chair Gary Abrams conducted introductions of the CAB members and public participants.

**2. Approval of Minutes for 6/23/05**

The minutes from the June 23, 2005, meeting were not approved due to a lack of a quorum.

**3. Nominate and Elect CAB Co-Chairs**

Due to a lack of a quorum, this agenda item will be held until the next meeting.

**4. Vote on Membership Application: Robert L. Brobeck**

Due to a lack of a quorum, this agenda item will be held until the next meeting.

**5. Site Investigation Update + Q&A**

Matt Doolen reported that the Remedial Investigation (RI) report has been completed. He said it is a very large report which characterizes what has been found on the soil and groundwater contamination. He will now finalize the Land and Water Use Study, which will become part of the RI, after he receives input from all of the water providers and well owners in the area of the site. The main purpose of the study is to ask how wells will be used in the next 100 years. This will help to determine the Remedial Objectives.

With the completion of the Land and Water Use Study, he projected the time to release the RI for public comment to be May 2006. There will be a 60-day comment period. He described the WQARF process through to the Feasibility Study.

He said that for the past two years, ADEQ has performed semi-annual sampling of monitor wells in and around the site. He explained that a reduction in sampling occurred due to past budget shortfalls, but this did not affect the investigation because, after so many years of sampling, ADEQ knows the trends. He said the most recent round of sampling took place in October (no results were back at the time of the meeting), and sampling will again be done at the end of April 2006.

He presented a graph showing the current TCE concentrations in selected wells. He said 40 monitor wells have been installed in both the perched and regional aquifers. He said with the exception of IRA-2, which showed a slight increase in contamination, the other wells are not showing concentrations increasing much; most are on a downward trend. Regarding the chromium contamination in the regional aquifer, he said only two wells -- IRA-2 and IRA-9 -- are showing contamination above the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) but these wells are also continuing to decline in concentrations and will again be sampled in April 2006.

The CAB asked questions regarding the sampling results. Matt Doolen explained that the drawing of the plume can shift back and forth from sampling data because it is affected by the pull of the Flowing Wells Irrigation District (FWID) production wells and by the natural groundwater flow, which is to the northwest. He said he does not see a continuing source of TCE from the data collected because if there was a source going into the regional aquifer, sampling would detect increased concentrations around those probable sources. Instead, the concentrations are decreasing. He said this is why it is important to stay one step in front of the plume so contamination does not affect the drinking water supply. ADEQ continues to monitor the FWID active production wells to be certain these wells don't show any levels of contamination that would be of concern.

## **6. Flowing Wells Irrigation District Update + Q&A**

David Crockett outlined work taking place in partnership with ADEQ to build a treatment plant for the two FWID production wells adjacent to the plume. He said this plant will treat the groundwater for volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and for arsenic. The Environmental Protection Agency is requiring new standards of water providers for arsenic in drinking water. He said that October 27, FWID held a public meeting with the purpose of presenting the plans for the construction and operation of the treatment plant to the neighborhoods and customers of FWID. He said the site is located at Roger and Romero Roads. He pointed out on a diagram of the plant where the equipment will be housed. He explained the operations of each vessel. He said final plans were finished today and will be submitted to ADEQ for approval. FWID will get a bid out for the vessels next month. He said they hope to have the treatment plant operational by May 2006.

The CAB asked questions about the treatment plant and public meeting. Eileen Palese said that several neighbors did attend and Robert Brobeck became interested in CAB membership at that time.

Jan Randolph asked what chemicals were generated by the treatment plant. David Crockett said there are none, just dirty water. He said chemicals are absorbed in the iron media and further

explained the operation of the carbon filters. Jan Randolph also asked about the possibility of using bioremediation. Matt Doolen said an assessment would be made further in the process if this technique could be used as a cleanup option. David Crockett said bioremediation has not been used yet to clean up arsenic in water.

## **7. Call to the Public**

No one wished to comment.

## **8. CAB Membership Recruitment Discussion**

Eileen Palese outlined ideas for increasing membership on the CAB and reported that Robert Brobeck submitted an application. She said that neighborhood association meetings are a good place to encourage membership. She said FWID also placed a short article in the Arizona Daily Star to announce the meeting, but a short membership push in the article was cut. She said she also announces the CAB meeting in newspaper event calendars. She commended all of the members who have remained on the board for six years. She said that with the RI comment period coming up, it is important to get more input from the community. Robert Brobeck said he may know of other people that might be interested in joining the CAB.

## **9. Continuation of CAB Vision Statement Discussion**

Jan Randolph had requested the CAB discuss a Vision Statement. She said to hold this item until the next meeting when more members are present. She suggested better ways to interest the public through printed materials. The CAB discussed ways to promote the CAB.

## **10. Other Administrative Business**

Eileen Palese announced the promotion of Mike Fulton to Deputy Director of Waste Programs Division in Phoenix. She also mentioned that information was sent to the CAB regarding Open Meeting Law and electronic communications. She explained how communications should be handled. She said the reason for the law is to keep all discussions open to the public. Eileen Palese said that there is also again some discussion about having a meeting of the co-chairs. She will let the CAB know if plans come together. The CAB discussed possible television coverage of the site. Matt Doolen said the agency does receive some press coverage. Eileen Palese said that we have to work through the ADEQ Communications Department for any press activity. Jan Randolph suggested ways to create a television program for broadcast on Access Tucson.

## **11. Next Meeting Date/Agenda Discussion**

The Miracle Mile Community Advisory Board will be held April 20, 2006, at the Flowing Wells Irrigation District, 3901 N. Fairview, in Tucson, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Call Eileen Palese, ADEQ Community Involvement Coordinator, at (520) 628-6712 for more information.

## **12. Adjournment**

The meeting ended at 7:40 p.m.

*This meeting was recorded on cassette tapes as a record of the proceedings. To listen to the tape(s), or for additional documents mentioned in these minutes, contact ADEQ's Southern Regional Office, Community Involvement Office, 520/628-6712.*